

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 6, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

--The present invention also provides a microorganism of which the Internal Transcribed Spacer-5.8S rRNA, or ITS-5.8S rRNA, gene contains the sequence of 563 bases shown in Sequence Listing, SEQ ID No. 2 or a base sequence molecular-phylogenetically equivalent thereto based on the ITS-5.8S rRNA gene base sequence and which is capable of secreting and producing β -glucan out of fungi. It is preferred for this microorganism to have resistance to the antibiotic cycloheximide.--

Page 23, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

--The inorganic salts include sodium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium carbonate, magnesium sulfate, sodium phosphate, potassium phosphate, cobalt chloride, and heavy metal salts. If desired, vitamins may be used. Where foaming occurs during cultivation, known ~~defamers~~ defoamers may be added to the medium appropriately.--